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NOW STRIKES THE
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SCOTTIE in **A Cracker Jack story**

OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.

STRIKE ONE! GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT???

I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH.

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.

STRIKE TWO! **ZOOM!** **WHAP!**

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD- THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

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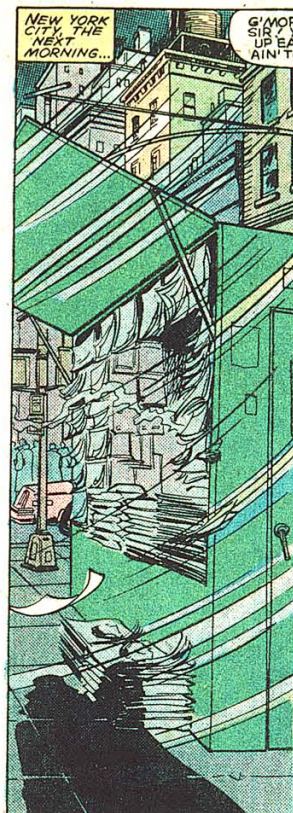
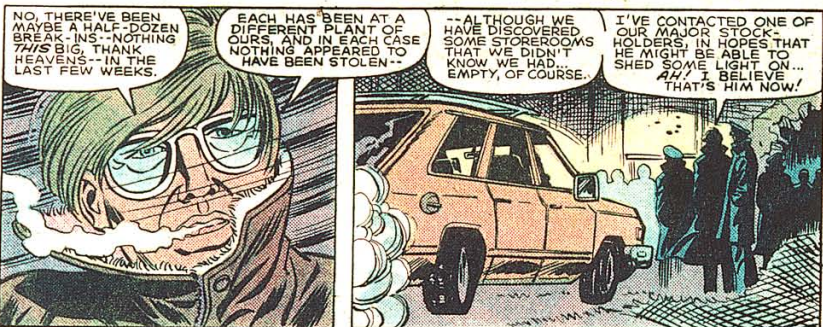
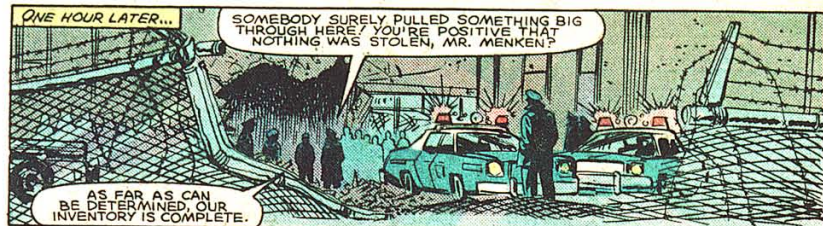
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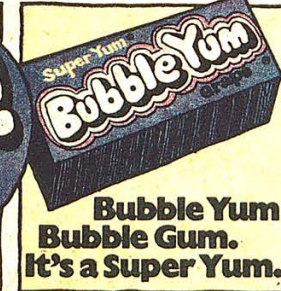
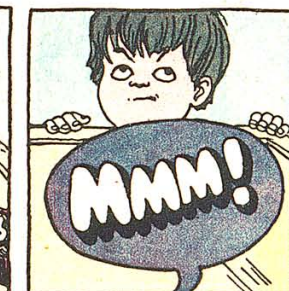
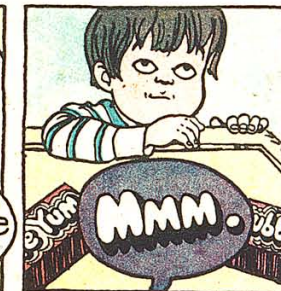
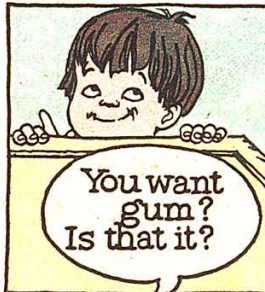
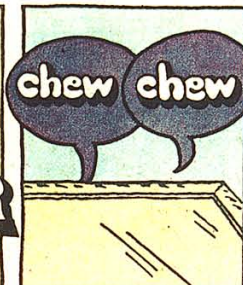
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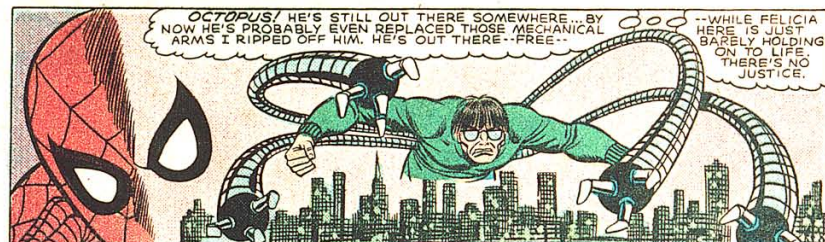
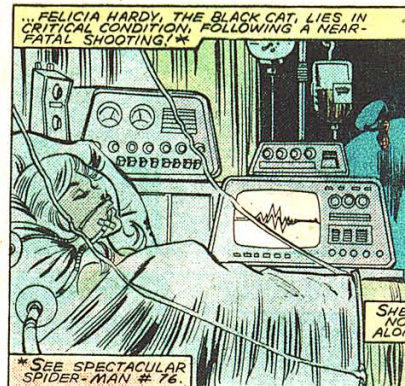
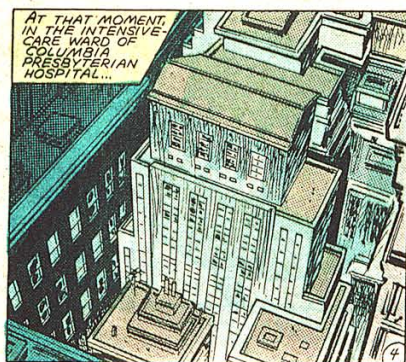
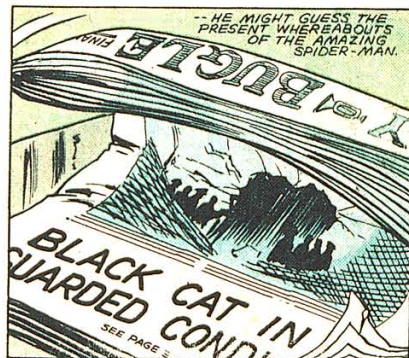
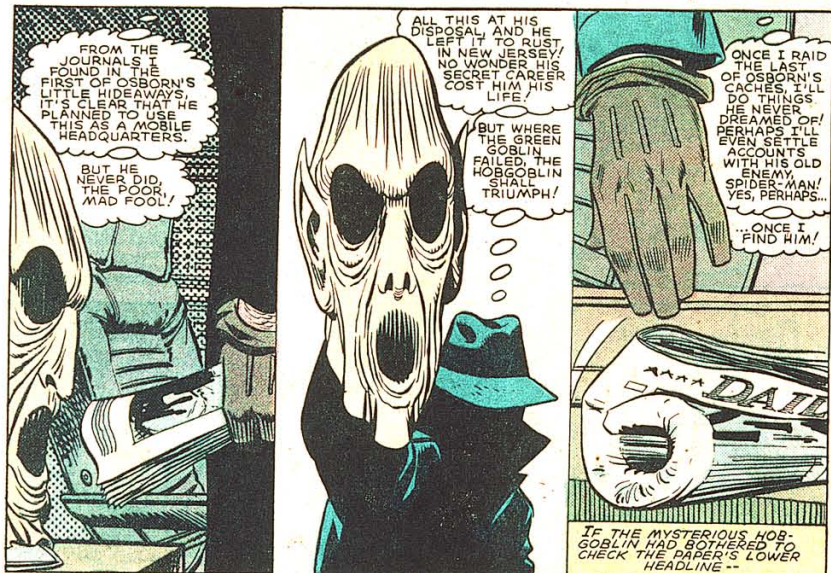
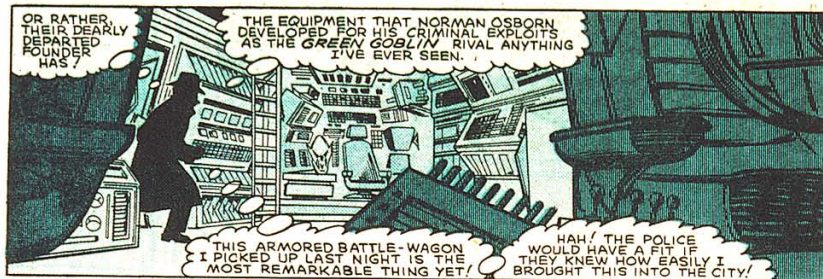
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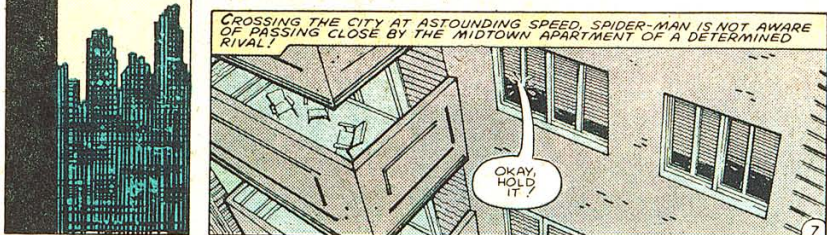
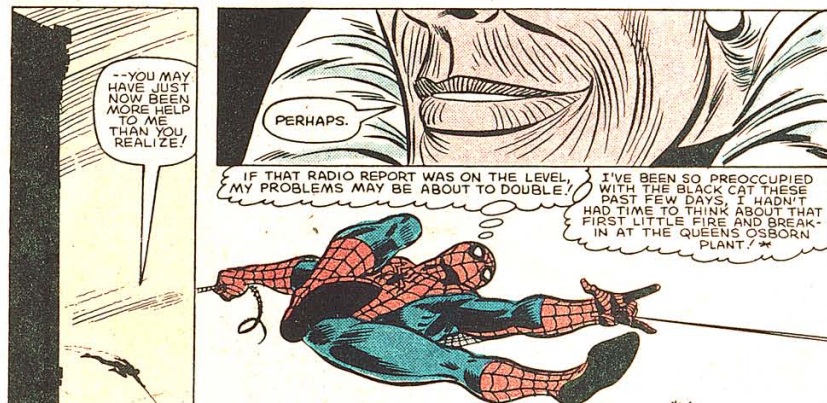
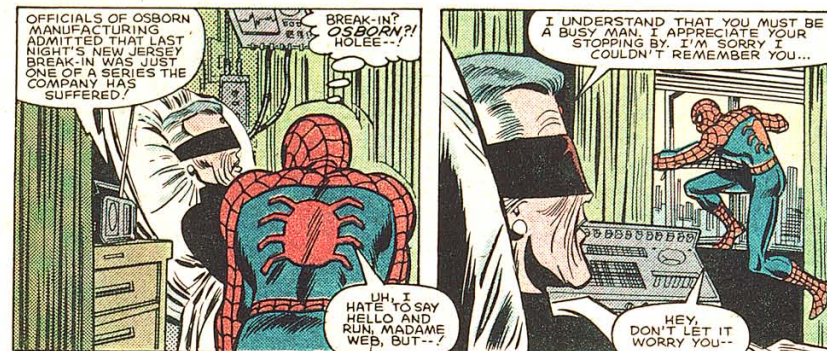
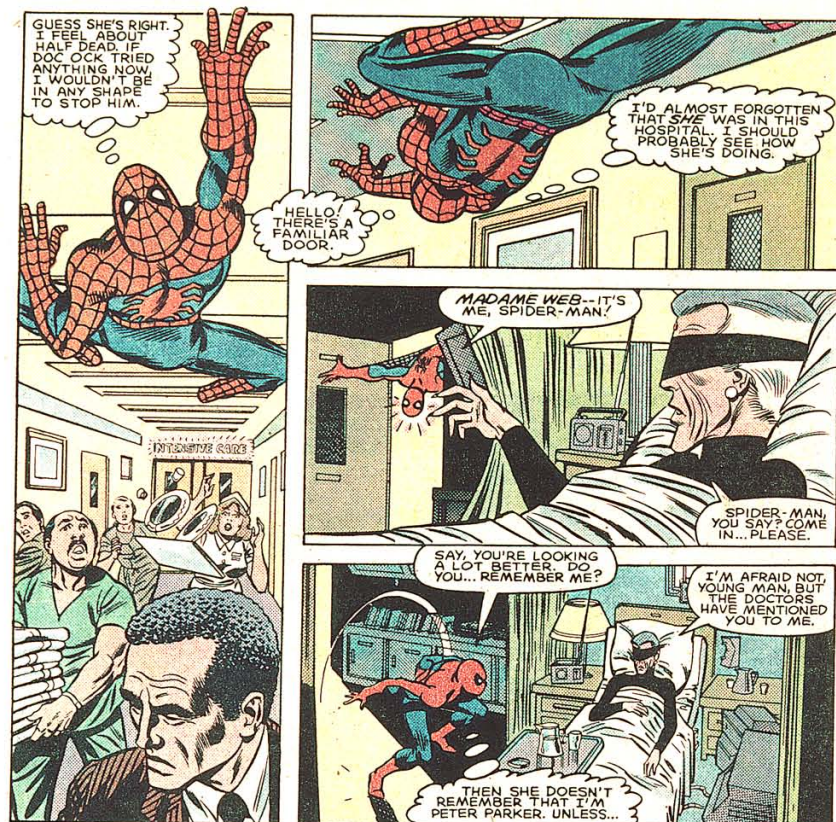
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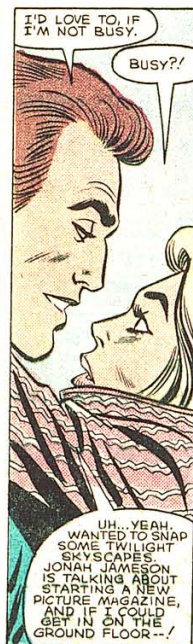
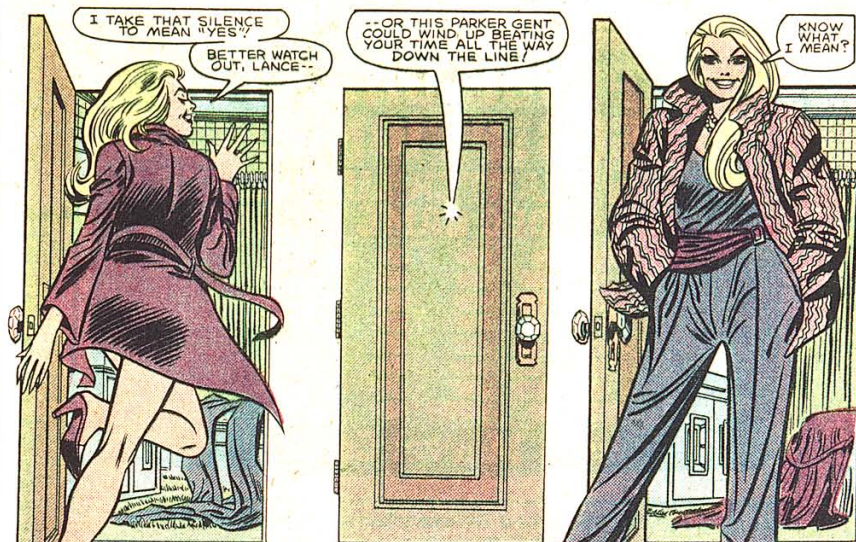
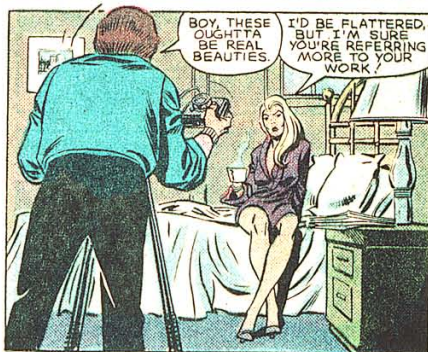
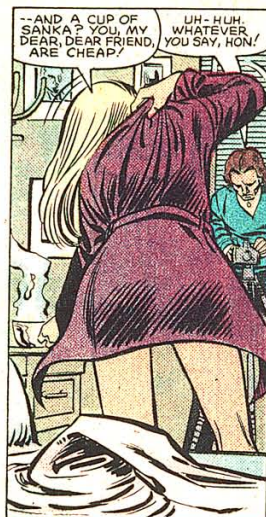
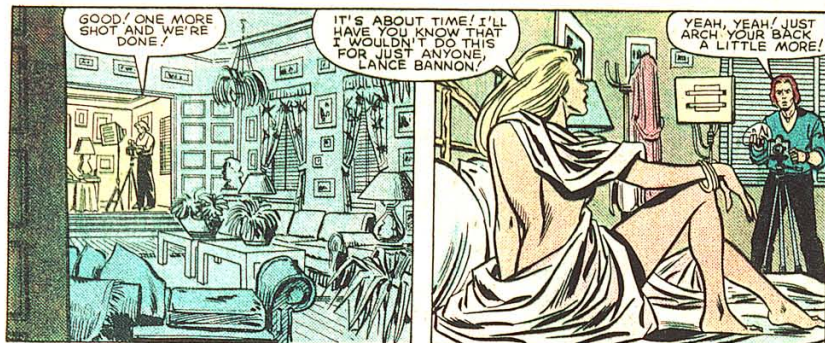
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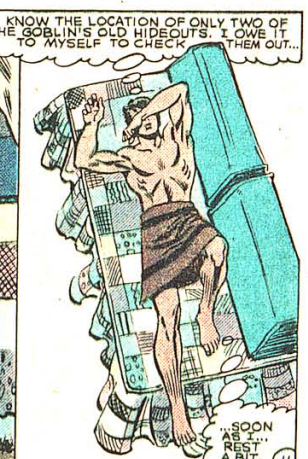
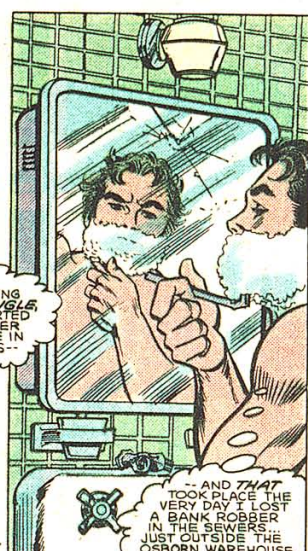
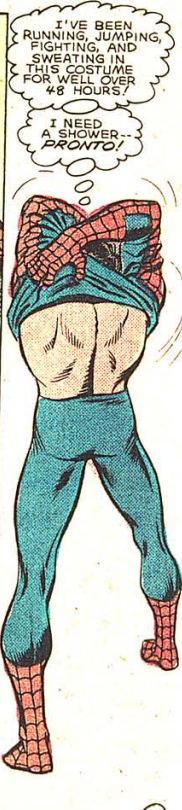
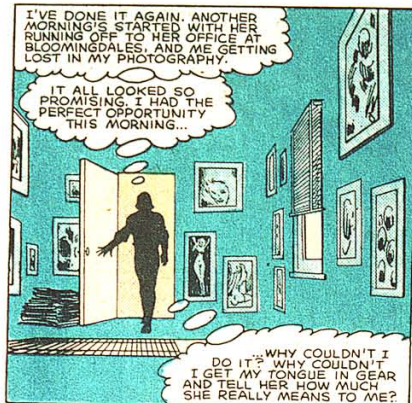
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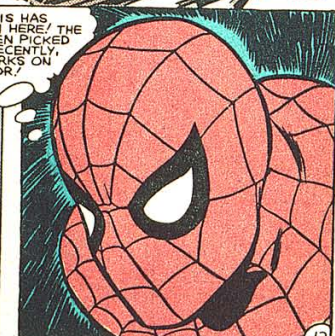
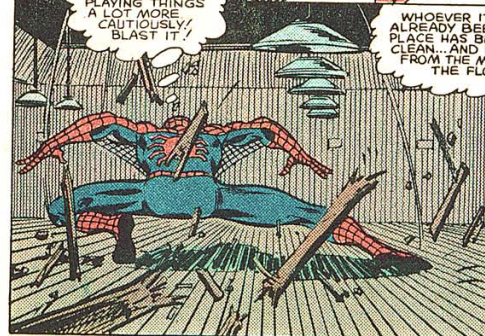
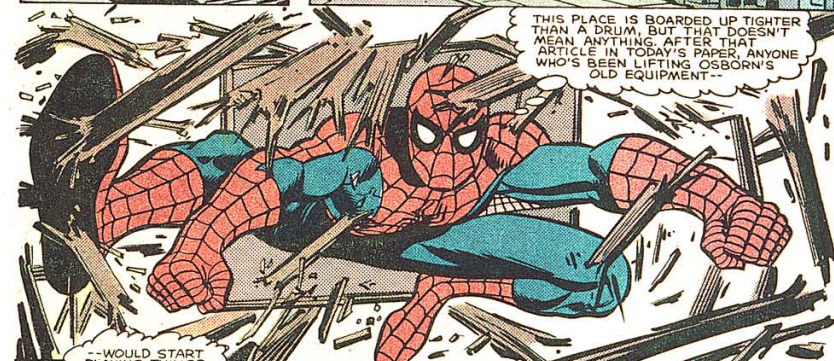
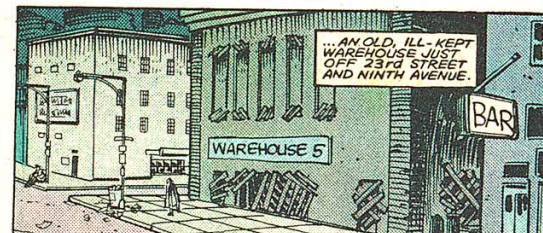
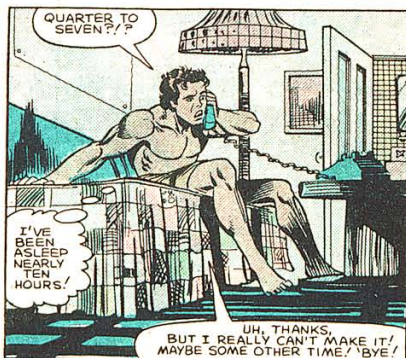
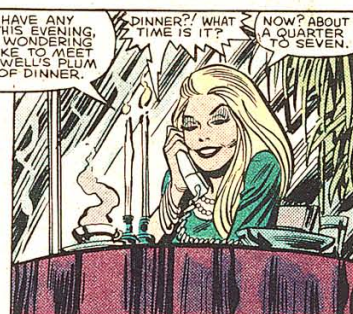
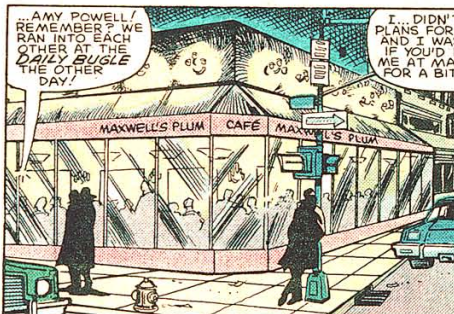
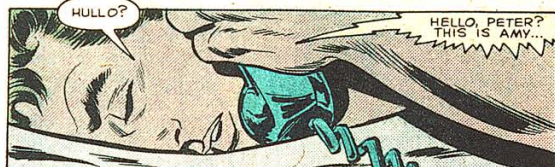
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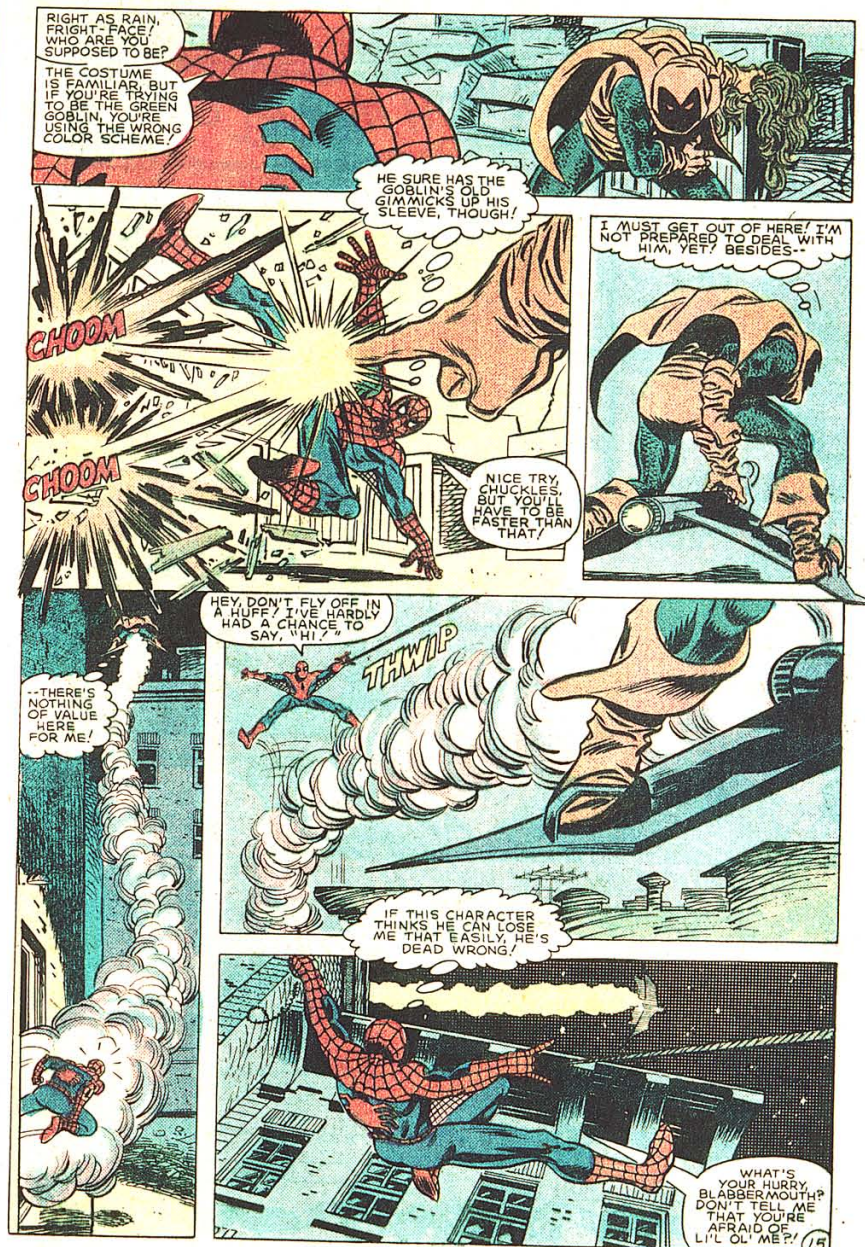
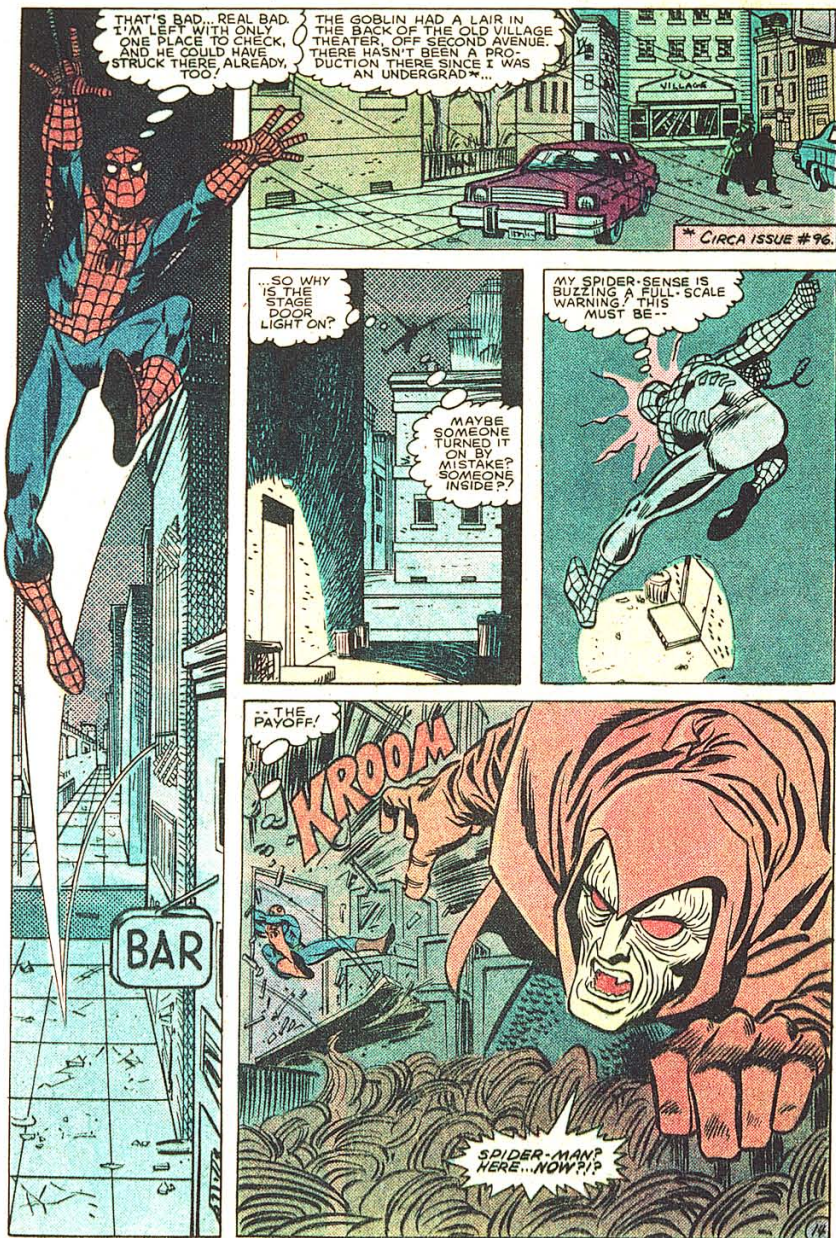
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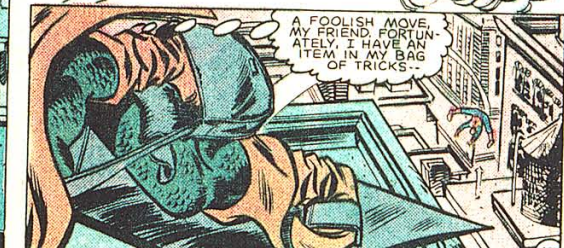
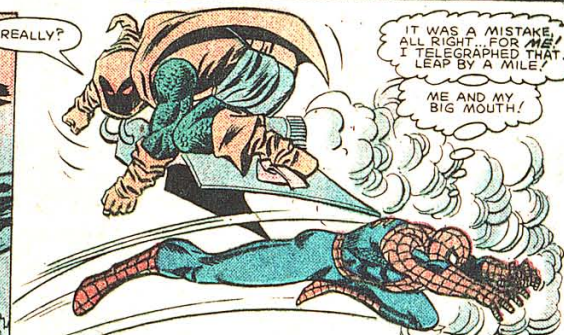
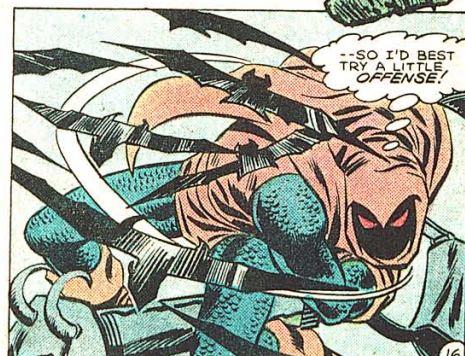
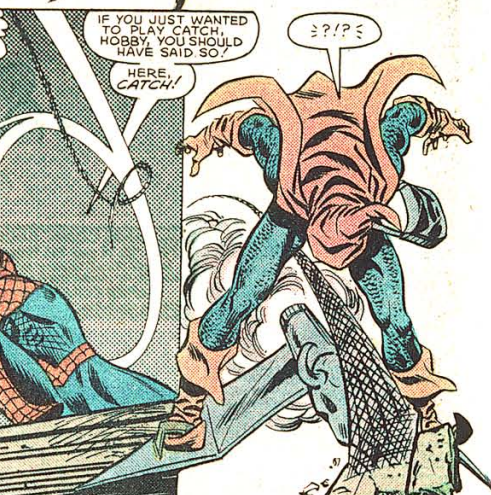
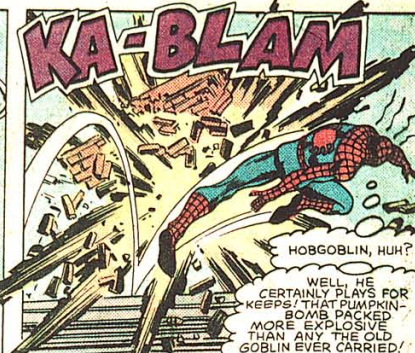
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FEEL MORE LIKE THE AMAZING
DOOFUS!

AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN
THROUGH IN THE PAST FEW
DAYS, MY MIND MUST STILL
BE ON HOLD! I'D BETTER
SNAP TO IT BEFORE--!



BUH-WHAM

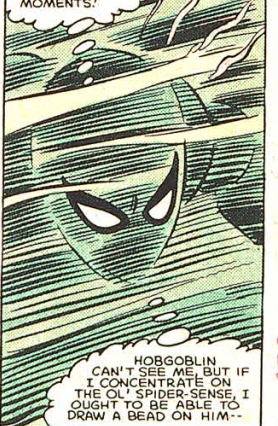


GAS! THAT FIGURES. THE GREEN
GOBLIN HAD A WHOLE RANGE OF
GAS-BOMBS IN HIS ARSENAL.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR OL' HOBBY,
I GOT MYSELF A GOOD LUNGFUL
OF AIR BEFORE HIS LITTLE
PARTY-FAVOR WENT OFF. THIS
STUFF WON'T EVEN SLOW
ME DOWN!

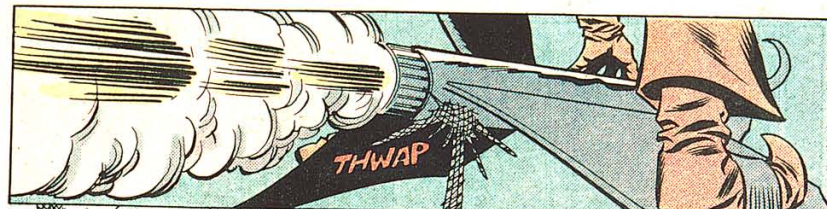
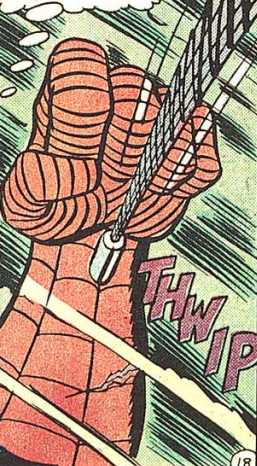


WHAT'S MORE,
I CAN USE IT
AS GROUND
COVER FOR THE
NEXT FEW
MOMENTS!



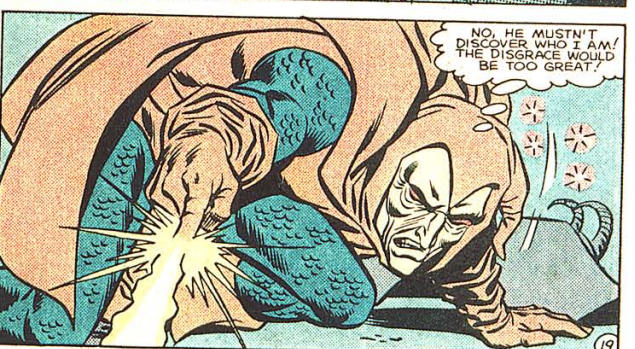
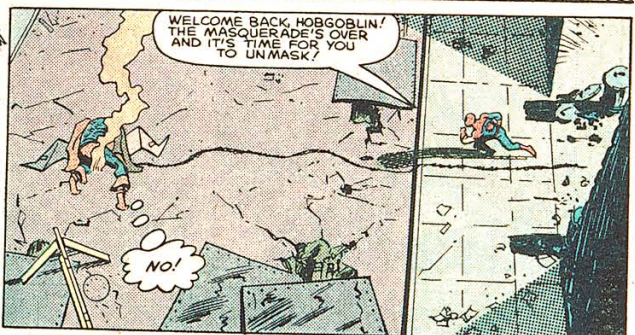
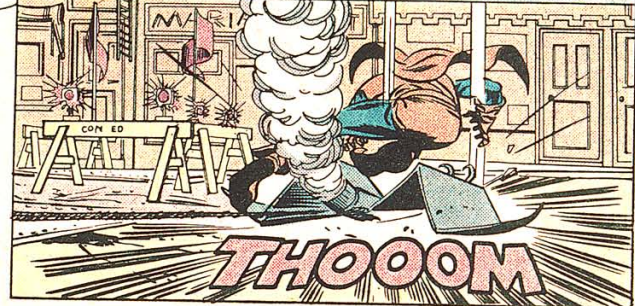
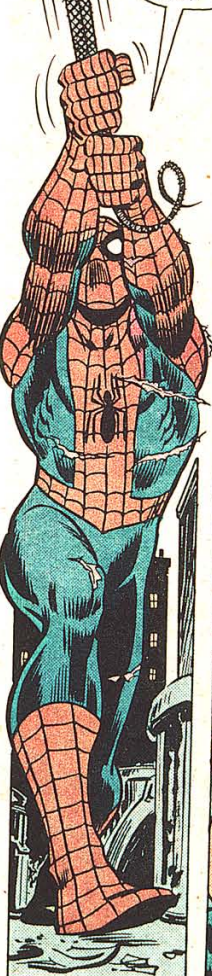
HOBGOBLIN
CAN'T SEE ME, BUT IF
I CONCENTRATE ON
THE OL' SPIDER-SENSE, I
OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO
DRAW A BEAD ON HIM--

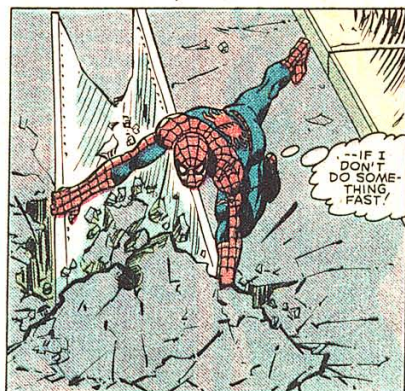
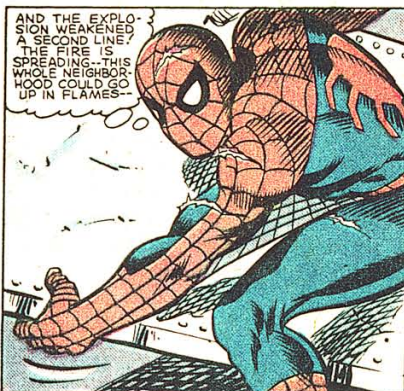
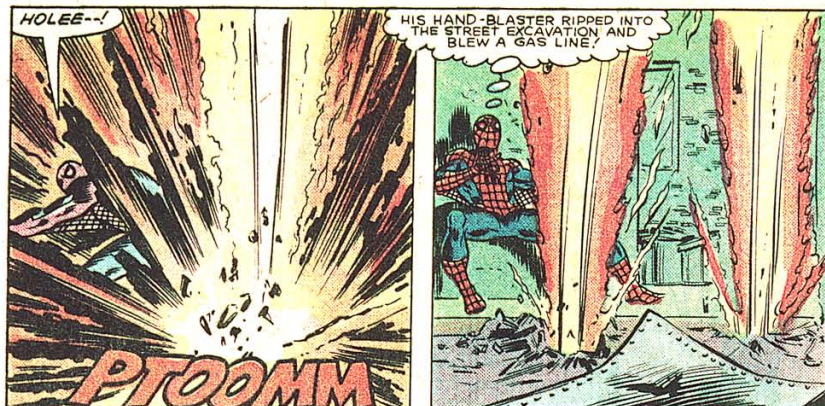
--WITH NO TROUBLE!



THAT'S IT!
COME TO
EARTH,
BABY!

PLANTING HIS FEET FIRMLY ON THE PAVEMENT, SPIDER-MAN CALLS UPON
HIS UNUSUAL CLINGING ABILITY TO STAND HIS GROUND. HIS WEBBING
STRETCHES TO THE END OF ITS ELASTIC POINT--AND HOLDS! SO THAT...





THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10018

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LANGE TOOKS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

Being an unshakable collector of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, I must congratulate Roger Stern, John Romita, Jr., and Dan Green for the job they did on issue #234. "Now Shall Will-O-The-Wisp Have His Revenge!" is probably the best Spider-yarn I've ever laid my eyes on.

I just knew that Peter Parker's run of good luck couldn't hold out through the entire story. I mean, he first meets a beautiful young woman, then he gets to harass J. Jonah Jameson, and then Mr. Pincus defrosts his refrigerator and gives Pete a complete meal! It had to end somewhere, right? And unfortunately for the ol' Web-head, it ended with the transformation of the Tarantula from man into monster. I can't wait to see how Spider-Man gets himself out of this mess!

Also, I wish to thank everyone involved for the Marvel Guide to Collecting Comics. It told me a few things about comics I never knew.

Brian Toms
3209 Jenks Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

Me, too!

Dear Tom,

To tell the truth, the only reason I bought AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #234 was to get the Marvel Guide to Collecting Comics. The Guide shed some light on a number of things for me, but mostly — now — I'm glad that there was an issue of SPIDER-MAN attached to it.

I never read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN that much before, but you can bet I will from now on! From that great scene on page two, where the bullets passed right through Will-O-The-Wisp, I knew that I'd picked up one action-packed issue. The story was so interesting and the art so fabulous, who else but Marvel could have done it?

Is Will-O-The-Wisp a friend of Spider-Man's or an enemy? From the way he acted, it was a little hard to tell.

Finally, I hope that the Tarantula doesn't stay in that form for long, as that could mean big trouble for Spider-Man.

Matthew S. Flemming
4655 Monic Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Is the Wisp a friend or foe? Good question, Matt, and it's one that Spider-Man has asked himself almost every time he's run into the glowing man! They've recently parted on good terms, though!

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

Congratulations on your new, more upbeat Spider-Man. You have replaced the dull, stagnant 'Spidey' with a much more enjoyable Spider-Man. You have put much of the fun and spunk back into this book, and we applaud you.

Unfortunately, we cannot applaud the appearances herein of Nathan Lubensky. With his presence in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, one can only assume that we will be seeing still more of the unhealthiest lady in comics — Aunt May. You may like Aunt May, but we feel that she has out-lived her

usefulness to the series. After all her illnesses and heart attacks, it is simply amazing, not to mention very improbable, that she is still alive!

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has always been the magazine for change and innovative ideas. Well, let's reaffirm that tradition with the death of Aunt May. Aunt May has given us so many subplots that she has no more to give... alive. Her death, however, opens up infinite possibilities. What would Peter do without his aunt? What would he do with the windfall of money that would result from no more medical bills? Would Peter Parker finally become the happy-go-lucky Spider-Man?

So what do you say? Let's put it to Marvel-dom Assembled as to whether or not May Parker should live.

Mike and Doug Gessell
25 Anderson Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canada S4S 4R3

Aw, gee, guys! Isn't that just a little on the bloodthirsty side? Do you really want me to condemn sweet old May Parker to death? Do you really think you know all there is to know about the lady? (If you do, you'd best think again!)

Besides, May's been the picture of health, ever since she had that coronary by-pass operation (way back in ASM #179) ...and Nathan Lubensky entered her life. You might say the lady's started life anew... and that sounds pretty good to me! How about you?

Dear Tom, Roger, and John:

As I finish reading each issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, I think that there's just no way you could top yourselves. Then, I read the next issue and find out that you can't! I really can't believe how fantastic this book is becoming. Keep up the great work, guys!

And now, for some general question/comments:

- 1) Since Dr. Jonas Harrow created the Will-O-The-Wisp, does that mean he worked for the Brand Corporation?
- 2) After the Tarantula reverts to normal, why not have him go to work for the Kingpin?
- 3) Bring back Doc Ock!
- 4) Have Spider-Man get a re-match with the Cyclone, Lightmaster, the Grizzly, the Shocker, Mysterio, the Prowler, or Beladonna.
- 5) Keep on producing top-notch entertainment like this, and I'll renew my subscription!

Andrew Krepela

6102 138th Street S.E.

Everett, WA 98204

Okay, Andy, taking them in order:

- 1) Nopel Jonas Harrow didn't create the Wisp, he only used him. It was the Wisp who had worked for Brand, as we saw in issue #235.
- 2) Since the Tarantula was on a one-way transformation, employment from the Kingpin has become an impossible option in this reality.
- 3) You got 'im! See recent issues of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN.
- 4) Aside from Lightmaster — who lost

his powers in MARVEL TEAM-UP #113 — and the Shocker (who recently was used by the Masters of Evil in the AVENGERS), anything is possible!
5) Deal!

Dear Tom,

The all-new, all-different, all-terrific Captain Marvel — in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #16 — was just that.

Admittedly, when I heard that there was going to be a new Captain Marvel, I thought, "Oh, great! He's probably another Kree Warrior... here we go again!" Then I found out that he was a she. Well, I just read her origin... and, boy, was it different!

I have to say that Monica Rambeau is one of the best-looking women I have seen in comics... or real life, for that matter! I certainly don't blame Parker for wanting to follow her! I would have, too!

The story in this year's ANNUAL had one nifty scene after another. I laughed my head off when that kid at the Empire State Building wouldn't give Spider-Man a quarter for the viewer. And his parents' reaction to his "meeting" with Spider-Man was too much! The running chase was very exciting; it had me on the edge of my seat, right to the very end when Web-head and Iron Man managed to save Captain Marvel from her power overload. The Thing's difficulties with finding a cab contributed to another good laugh. And it was a joy to see Liz and Harry again. I hope we see more of them soon — and let's see this Brenda gal that Liz wanted to set Peter up with! I mean who knows...?

Back to the lovely Captain Marvel, I hope enough fans like her and support her. (I for one would like to see the lady get her own book.) I am waiting with bated breath for AVENGERS #227 to hit the stands.

Mark Stanislawski
117 Cornflower Drive
Milford, CT 06460

NEXT ISSUE: Our story reaches from the heart of the Sun Belt to the less balmy climes of Forest Hills, as the high-flying Vulture returns to bedevil our amazing web-spinner! And wait! You see their battle to the finish in the middle of the New York Coliseum... and we do mean finish! It all jumps off the pages of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #240, on sale in just thirty days! Reserve your copy now!

Bye for now...

Tom DeFalco



BULFEN BULFENS

I'M BACK!

I hope you enjoyed last month's guest column by David Michelinie, who happens to be the brilliant, superstar scripter of *The Further Adventures of Indiana Jones*, among other things. And, in case you've forgotten me, I am Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. That means I'm the boss here, folks! Neat, huh?

REQUEST OF THE MONTH

Ever since I mentioned *Shooter's Law of Mail* in one of my columns, I've been asked again and again if I've established any other "laws" governing Marvel Comics, and, if so, what are they. Okay. You asked for it, you got it. Here are some of...

SHOOTER'S LAWS

The First Law of Fair Play

No one works for free. Anyone who does any work assigned by a Marvel Editor will be fairly paid. No exceptions.

The Second Law of Fair Play

A creator's time is valuable. If we waste any of it, we pay fairly for it.

The Third Law of Fair Play

All creative people will be treated equally and fairly. There will be no caste system—no elite with special privileges and unfair advantages over other creators. Every person has equal rights. Editors will make creative judgments based upon a creator's work, not upon his name or reputation. No one "deserves" special rights or privileges. Any special treatment granted to one creator is a stab in the back to all others.

The First Law of Mail

All mail must be opened and read by the person to whom it is addressed. No exceptions.

The Second Law of Mail

Mail from readers and fans should be treated with interest and respect. Those letters are from the people we work for. They're our bosses.

The Law of Dealing With Readers and Fans In Person

This should be done as often as possible, at conventions, comics stores, and anywhere else. Again, we work for these people, and they should be treated accordingly.

The Law of the Creation of Comics

There are no rules governing or limiting creativity. There is nothing which must be done and nothing which cannot be done. All things are possible. If something works, it works. If it doesn't work, never say it can't. There is a way. Try everything.

That's a few of them. There are others, of course. Maybe someday I'll list some more.

WORD HAS REACHED ME...

...that in a poll of British fans conducted by *Worlds Collide*, a classy British fan magazine, Marvel titles, series, and creators won every single category for which they were eligible. As you might expect, *Daredevil* and *The X-Men* were the big vote-getters. Thanks, Britain!

THAT'S IT...

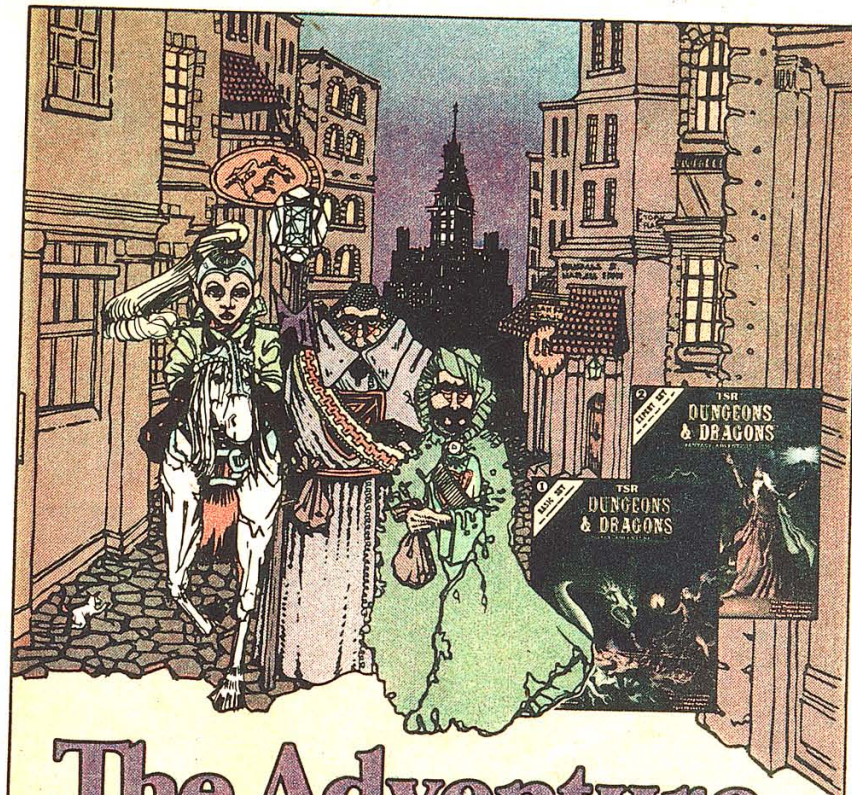
...for now. Next month, be sure to tune in for a special feature—the first (and quite possibly the last!) interview to be published in this column. I'm going to be asking probing questions of the man who has more copies of his work in print than any other human being in the history of the world. That's right, the most widely published creator (of anything) in history—and, no, folks, it isn't Stan Lee. Not even close.

Till then,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #98 — The Thing, and Franklin Richards.
- ☐ TEAM AMERICA #11
- ☐ KA-ZAR #25
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #2
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #193
- ☐ DARK CRYSTAL #1
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #49
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #200
- ☐ THOR #330 (See Hype Box)
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #79
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #30
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #4
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #58
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #282
- ☐ AVENGERS #230
- ☐ CONAN #145
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #150 — Special double-sized, reprinting *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #1 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO.
- ☐ X-MEN #188
- ☐ ROM #41
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #92
- ☐ G.I. JOE #10
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #253
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #128 — Spider-Man and Captain America.
- ☐ IRON MAN #169
- ☐ PETER PARKER #77
- ☐ DEFENDERS #116
- ☐ STAR WARS #70
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #123
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4
- ☐ WHAT IF #38 — "What If the Marvel Super Heroes Faced Old Age," featuring *Daredevil*, *Captain America*, the *Vision* and the *Scarlet Witch*.
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #88
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #1
- ☐ BLIP #1 (See Hype Box)
- ☐ MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS
- ☐ #5: THE X-MEN — by CHRIS CLAREMONT, BRENT ANDERSON and STEVE OLIVF. "God Loves; Man Kills."
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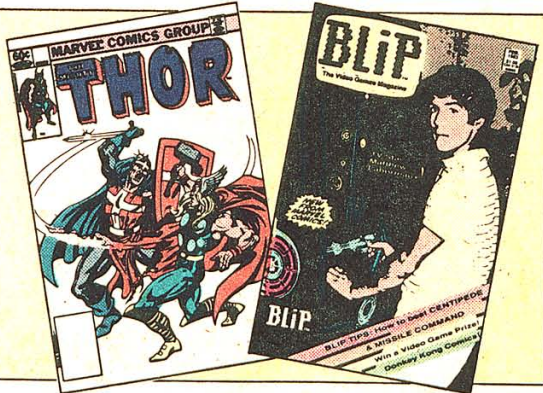


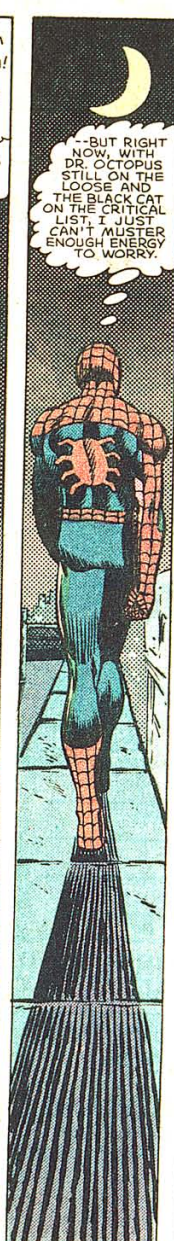
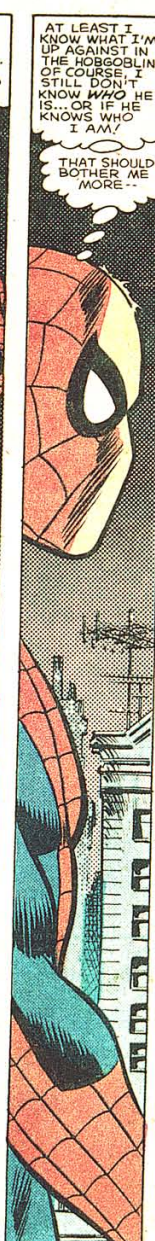
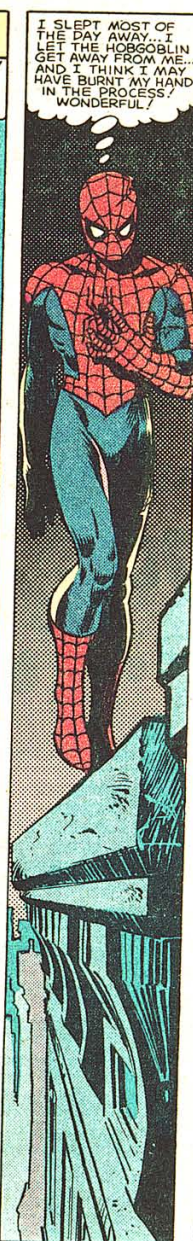
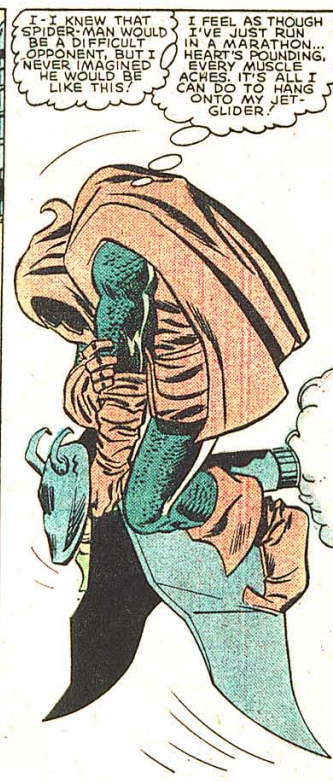
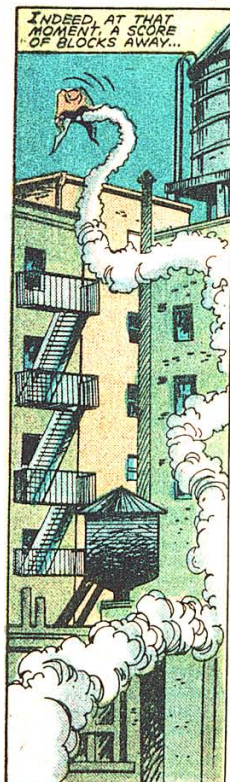
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THE HYPE BOX

THOR #330 — A new era begins for the thunder god as the creative team of ALAN ZELENETZ and BOB HALL — who brought last summer's *THOR ANNUAL* so dramatically to life — combine once again (joined by veteran inking ace VINCE COLLETTA) to chronicle the adventures of Odin's favorite son. For starters, they've got Goldilocks up against the Crusader, whose mission is to wipe out all Pagans — (including Norse deities!) It's a stunner...and it's only the beginning.

BLIP #1 — "BLIP"? What's a "BLIP"? Why, merely Marvel's fantastic foray into some wild and exciting new territory! We think it's gonna be the most fun-packed and fact-packed Video Games magazine around — and with features like *Video Games of the Stars*, *Blip Tips on Strategy*, a six page Donkey Kong comic by STEVEN GRANT and BOB CAMP and a couple of captivating contests offering great prizes — we're betting you'll agree. Look for it.





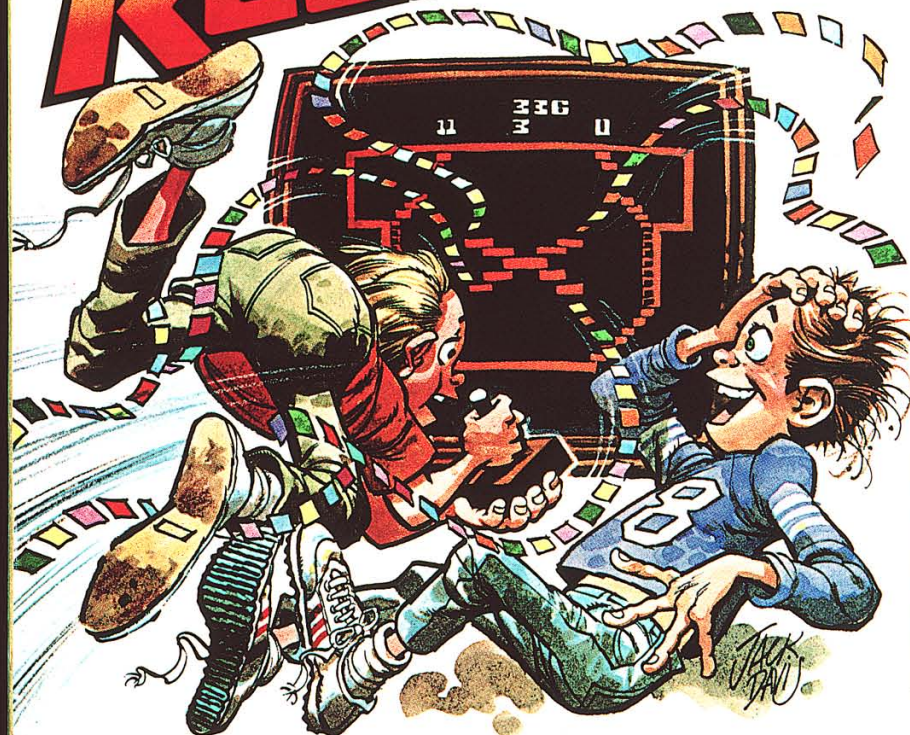
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